

TOWN OF HOUNSFIELD TOWN BOARD MEETING MAY 16, 2012

A special meeting of the Town Board was called to order by Supervisor Timothy Scee, at 7 PM, at the Town Hall, 18774 Co. Rt. 66, for the purpose of discussion and acting on the Town sharing the cost, with Sackets Harbor and the Chamber of Commerce, of the salary of a new position for a Town/Village Economic Development Director. The pledge of allegiance was said.

Board members present were, Supervisor Scee, C'man Stephen Lee, C'man Todd Farrington, C'man Vincent Battista, and C'man Richard Young. Also present were members of the Economic Development Ad Hoc Committee and the Chamber of Commerce Board.

Supervisor Scee asked if there were any comments from the public on this proposal in front of the Board tonight. There were no comments and the floor was closed.

A discussion was held between the Town Board, Ad Hoc Committee members and the Chamber of Commerce. Board members had questions and Anita Prather Harvel, Don Payne, Dave Altieri, and Jean Derouin spoke to answer them. The plan is for each municipality to supply \$15,000 a year and the Chamber to supply \$2500 a year for two years for the position salary and other needs. After that the Chamber will try to sustain the funding on their own. The director will be paid through the Chamber and will answer to the Chamber.

The floor was reopened and several residents were concerned about the reasons that businesses are leaving the Town in the first place and that the Chamber is being asked to help pay for the salary of the proposed economic development director. An announcement was made that a course in community economic development is being held on June 19, 2012 in Watertown that might be helpful to the Town and Village officials. At this time the floor was closed for public comment.

A motion was made by C'man Farrington that the Town of Hounsfield will commit \$15,000, as will the Village of Sackets Harbor, beginning June 1, 2012 and renewable yearly, to hire a Town/Village Economic Development Director. The town will make monthly payments to the Chamber of Commerce. Conditions for this motion are that the Town, Village and Chamber Boards will all agree on the person hired, that none of this funding be spent on legal agreements, and that the director hired will answer to the Chamber and the Chamber will answer to the Town and Village Boards. The motion was 2nd by C'man Battista. A roll call vote was taken: C'man Battista voted yes, C'man Farrington voted yes, C'man Lee voted yes, C'man Young voted yes, and Supervisor Scee voted no. The motion was carried.

Supervisor Scee and C'man Young both explained that they have talked with many residents of the Town about this issue and that is what they based their decisions on.

This meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Submitted by,

Diane M. Nier, Town Clerk